

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly add new claims 21-26 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous versions and listings of claims.

1. - 3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet, the printer comprising:

a printing apparatus comprising printing means for printing during a printing operation on a printable surface of a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet having a thermally sensitive adhesive layer formed on a surface opposite to the printable surface, and first transporting means for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in a first predetermined direction and in a second predetermined direction opposite to the first predetermined direction;

a cutter apparatus for cutting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet by a predetermined length after a printing operation by the printing means;

a thermally activating apparatus comprising heating means disposed at a preselected distance from the cutter apparatus for heating the thermally sensitive adhesive layer of the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet, and second transporting means for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction;

third transporting means for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction between the cutter apparatus and the thermally activating apparatus, the third transporting means comprising at least one discharge roller, a pressing member for pressing the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet against the discharge roller when the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet is transported between the pressing member and the discharge roller, and a drive mechanism for rotationally driving the discharge roller in a first direction of rotation while the pressing member presses the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet to transport the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction, the discharge roller being connected to the drive mechanism via a one-way clutch so that when the first transporting means transports the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the second predetermined direction, the drive mechanism does not rotate the discharge roller in a second direction of rotation opposite to the first direction of rotation; and

control means for independently controlling the first and second transporting means to thereby independently control a transporting speed of the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet during transportation thereof by the first and second transporting means.

5. - 9. (canceled).

10. (previously presented) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet, the printer comprising:

a printing apparatus comprising printing means for printing during a printing operation on a printable surface of a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet having a thermally sensitive adhesive layer formed on a surface opposite to the printable surface, and first transporting means comprising a platen roller for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in a first predetermined direction and in a second predetermined direction opposite to the first predetermined direction;

a cutter apparatus for cutting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet by a predetermined length after a printing operation by the printing means;

a thermally activating apparatus comprising heating means disposed at a preselected distance from the cutter apparatus for heating the thermally sensitive adhesive layer of the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet, and second transporting means for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction;

third transporting means comprising a discharge roller for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction between the cutter apparatus and the thermally activating apparatus; and

control means for independently controlling the first and second transporting means to thereby independently control a transporting speed of the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet during transportation thereof by the first and second transporting means;

wherein the first transporting means and the third transporting means comprise a drive mechanism for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction, the drive mechanism having a stepping motor for rotationally driving the platen roller and the discharge roller in a first direction to transport the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the first predetermined direction, the discharge roller being connected to the drive mechanism via a one-way clutch so that when the first transporting means transports the adhesive sheet in the second predetermined direction, the drive mechanism does not rotate the discharge roller in a second direction of rotation opposite to the first direction of rotation.

11. - 12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented) A printer comprising:
a printing unit for printing during a printing operation on a printable surface of a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet having a thermally sensitive adhesive layer formed on a surface opposite to the printable surface;

a first transporting mechanism for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet through the printing unit;

a thermally activating unit for heating the thermally sensitive adhesive layer of the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet;

a second transporting mechanism for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet through the thermally activating unit;

a third transporting mechanism for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet from the printing unit to the thermally activating unit; and

control means for controlling the first and third transporting mechanisms as a transporting unit to transport the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet at a preselected speed, and for independently controlling the transporting unit and the second transporting mechanism to thereby independently control the preselected speed and a transporting speed of the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet during transportation thereof by the transporting unit and the second transporting mechanism.

14. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 13; wherein each of the first, second and third transporting mechanisms comprises at least one roller mounted for undergoing rotation to transport the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet.

15. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 14; wherein the first and third transporting mechanisms further comprise a first drive mechanism for rotationally driving the roller of each of the first and third transporting mechanisms; and wherein the second transporting mechanism further comprises a second drive mechanism for driving the roller of the second transporting mechanism.

16. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 15; wherein the first and second drive mechanisms comprise first and second stepping motors, respectively; and wherein the control means includes means for independently controlling a rotational speed of each of the first and second stepping motors.

17. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 15; wherein the roller of the third transporting mechanism is connected to the first drive mechanism via a one-way clutch.

18. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 15; wherein the second transporting mechanism further comprises a pair of drawing rollers driven by the second drive mechanism for drawing the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet toward the roller of the second transporting mechanism.

19. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 14; wherein the third transporting mechanism further comprises an auxiliary roller mounted for undergoing rotation and for contacting the roller of the third transporting mechanism to transport the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet during rotation of the roller and auxiliary roller of the third transporting mechanism.

20. (previously presented) A printer according to claim 13; further comprising a cutter apparatus for cutting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet after a printing operation by the printing unit.

21. (new) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 4; wherein the first transporting means comprises the drive mechanism of the third transporting means for transporting the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet in the predetermined direction.

22. (new) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 4; wherein the discharge roller is configured to be partially brought into contact with the pressing member in a state in which the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet is not transported between the pressing member and the discharge roller.

23. (new) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 4; further comprising moving means for moving the discharge roller and the pressing member toward each other to press the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet against the discharge roller and away from each other to release the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet from the discharge roller.

24. (new) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 4; wherein the pressing member comprises an auxiliary roller having outer peripheral portions for contacting outer peripheral portions of the discharge roller when the thermally sensitive adhesive sheet is transported between the auxiliary roller and the discharge roller.

25. (new) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 10; wherein the second transporting means comprises a platen roller and a drive mechanism having a stepping motor for rotationally driving the platen roller of the second transporting means.

26. (new) A printer for a thermally sensitive adhesive sheet according to claim 25; wherein the control means includes means for independently controlling a rotational speed of each of the first and second stepping motors.